

Message Text

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70

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FPC-01 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00

COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-14 L-03

NSF-04 NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-20 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2848

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0611

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: SKAGIT RIVER

1. DURING MARCH 4 HOUSE OF COMMON QUESTION PERIOD,
MP JOHN A. FRASER (VANCOUVER SOUTH) ASKED PRIME MINISTER
TO "... TELL THE HOUSE WHAT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL NEGOTIATIONS
RELATING TO TERMS OF SETTLEMENT OF THE SKAGIT RIVER ISSUE
WITH SEATTLE HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE JUNE 1973?"

2. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE THEN TOOK PLACE:

BEGIN TEXT

"HON. PE.E. TRUDEAU (PRIME MINISTER: MR. SPEAKER,
A GREAT MANY NEGOTIATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. I CANNOT
SAY THAT THESE HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY CONCLUDED, BUT I CAN
SAY, TO REASSURE THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FLOODING
OF THE SKAGIT, THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTING
BEFORE THE FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION OF THE UNITED
STATES, BEFORE THE DEADLINE OF MARCH 15, A VERY
SUBSTANTIAL BRIEF AGAINST THE FLOODING. AS OF THIS
DAY I CANNOT INDICATE WHETHER OR NOT THAT WILL BE A
BRIEF PRESENTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT
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OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, BUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS

PRESENTING THAT BRIEF, REGARDLESS. PERHAPS IF THE
HON MEMBER WANTS TO ASK HIS QUESTION LATER OR CLOSER
TO THE DEADLINE, I COULD HAVE FURTHER NEWS FOR HIM
REGARDING THE NATURE OF THE PRESENTATION.

"MR. FRASER: A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION,
MR. SPEAKER. I THANK THE PRIME MINISTER FOR HIS
ANSWER. I WONDER IF HE COULD BE A LITTLE MORE
DEFINITIVE IN TELLING US WHETHER, AT THE PRESENT
TIME, ANY JOINT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL POLICY ON A
BASIS OF SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

"MR TRUDEAU: MR. SPEAKER,I SUPPOSE IT WOULD
BE FAIR TO SAY THAT THERE IS, PRESUMABLY, AGREEMENT
ON THE PART OF BOTH THAT THE SKAGIT SHOULD NOT BE FLOODED.
THE WAY IN WHICH THE REPRESENTATIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO
THE FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION HAVE NOT BEEN AGREED ON BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA THE POSITION OF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS THAT THE TWO PRINCIPALS IN
THIS QUESTION ARE THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,
WHICH HAS RECEIVED OVER A PERIOD OF MANY YEARS
COMPENSATION FROM THE CITY OF SEATTLE IN LIEU OF THE
FLOODING IN ORDER TO PAY IN ADVANCE FOR THE FLOODING,
AND THE CITY OF SEATTLE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS
ACTING PARTICULARLY AS AN AUTHORITY IN INTERNATIONAL
DEALINGS. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO PUT THE CASE FOR BRITISH
COLUMBIA AS STRONGLY AS WE CAN, BECAUSE WE ARE IRREVOCABLY
OPPOSED TO THE FLOODING. WHETHER BRITISH COLUMBIA WISHES
TO SUPPORT US ON THE PRESENTATION IS SOMETHING WHICH HAS
NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED" END TEXT.
JOHNSON

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